

In accordance with Applicants' duty of disclosure, the enclosed information is submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. The information is identified on the attached PTO Form-1449

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior U.S. Application Serial No. 08/982,478 filed on December 2, 1997. The references identified on the attached Form PTO-1449 were submitted to and/or cited by the Patent and Trademark Office in the prior application and, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies are not required to be provided in this application.

Applicants do not waive any right to take appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application.

Serial No. 09/660,390

Attorney Docket No.: 00629.00002

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner fully consider each of the documents, initial enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the appropriate place to indicate that the document has been considered, and return a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

No action on the merits has yet been received, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due in connection with this filing. However, if a fee is due, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 12, 2001

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